



Handouts for Step Up to Writing Training



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Roll Over Dracula

SPIEGEL

July 27, 2013

A chilling find has been made in Poland: at least 17 skeletons buried with the skulls severed and placed between the knees or hands. That, say archaeologists, is how vampires used to be interred, to stop them rising from the dead.

Construction workers building a road near the town of Gliwice in southern Poland this month came across four skeletons buried in a bizarre way. Their skulls had been cut off and placed between the knees or hands of the dead. Later, a further 13 skeletons arranged in a similar way were found.

Adding to the mystery, nothing -- no jewelry, remains of clothing or coins, not even a button -- was found on the bodies.

Archaeologists now believe that the bodies date from the 15th or 16th centuries, when the fear of vampires was widespread in Eastern Europe. Lukasz Obtulowicz, an archaeologist from the monument protection office in the nearby city of Katowice, said there were clear indications that this was the site of a vampire burial, noting that stones had been placed on the skulls. "All this served to prevent the vampires from returning to life," he said in a television interview.

Graves Close to Former Execution Site

The office's chief archeologist, Jacek Pierzak, told Polish newspaper Dziennik Zachodni: "It was one of the most common forms of burying vampires." The office could not immediately be reached for comment.

It can't be ruled out that the dead were executed, because the site lies close to where a gallows used to stand. So far, a total of 43 graves have been unearthed there, and historians hope to learn more about the skeletons by studying court files and church logs on executions.

The skeletons are being removed for tests to ascertain their age and the possible causes of death.

In 2012, archaeologists in Bulgaria discovered two medieval skeletons that had been pierced through the chest with iron rods -- another popular way to prevent suspected vampires from rising from the dead and gorging themselves on the blood of the living.

Name: _____ Subject: _____

NEWS ITEM

Title: _____

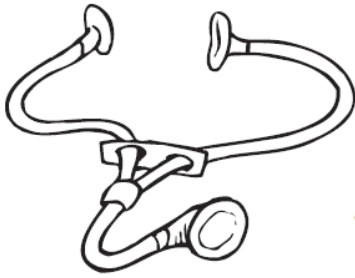
The article, “ _____ ,” gives information
about _____ . First, the
article _____

_____ . It also _____

_____ . Finally, _____

_____ .

Summary



"Adventures of a Country Doctor"

The Reader's Digest article "Adventures of a Country Doctor" explains how Dr. Richard Paris provides medical help to people in remote areas of Idaho. Dr. Paris lives in Hailey, Idaho, and works there with other doctors, including his wife. On a regular basis, however, he flies his Cessna 210 airplane to reach people who live on farms and ranches in Custer County, far away from any cities. Dr. Paris is the only doctor in all of Custer County, which is as big as the state of Connecticut. Dr. Paris takes care of the old and the young. He helps with many kinds of problems. He works to improve the health care for people in his area by giving them good care and making sure his clinics have the modern technology they need. Each year, medical students come to spend time with him, so they can learn how to help families who live in rural areas. Dr. Paris and his wife hope someday to go to other parts of the world to give medical care to those who do not have doctors.

Four-Step Summary Paragraph

Step 1 Write a topic sentence using the three-part topic sentence method (the burrito fold).

Identify the Item.	Select a Verb.	Finish Your Thought.

Step 2 Copy the sentence to look like a real sentence. Edit to fix spelling and capitalization errors.

Step 3 Create a fact outline. Make a short outline or list of the facts you will include in the summary.

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Step 4 Use your fact outline to write the summary paragraph.

The Baseball

"How old are you, Martin?" Martin glanced over at his father, who was in the driver's seat of the pick-up truck. Relieved, he saw the smile on his father's face—he was just asking for the fun of it.

"Come on, Dad, you know I'm fourteen." Martin saw the baseball field ahead, surrounded by orange groves. The sun hung heavy to the west of the scene. About 6:00 p.m. on a late March evening, Martin was anxious to stretch his legs around the diamond.

"Oh yeah, that's right—fourteen. How'd you get to be so old, boy?" Martin's father pulled onto the gravel road leading to the field. Driving with one arm, he let the other meet the fresh air rushing past the truck.

"Dad, fourteen is not that old," Martin replied.

"Fourteen isn't old? When I was your age. . .," his father said.

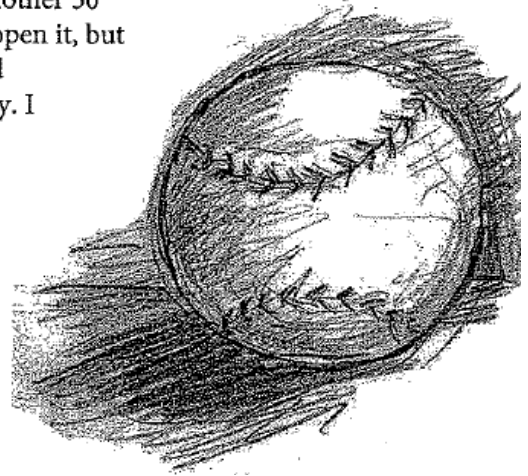
"I know, I know, I know, you were picking cotton, supporting your mother and sisters, walking uphill both ways to school." Martin saw many of his teammates were already warming up. They finally pulled to a stop. "How many times do I have to hear this story?"

"Well, there's a point, son. Just because you're fourteen doesn't mean you're at an age when you shouldn't be held accountable and responsible like I was back in the old days," grinning at Martin.

"Is that the end of the lecture, old man?" Martin asked impatiently. Agitated in his seat, he tapped his fingers rapidly against his knee. "I really got to get to practice."

"Just a minute," Martin's father put the truck in park. "You really got to slow down, boy. The team is going to be there in another 30 seconds." Martin put his hand on the door handle to open it, but before he could exit, his father reached across him and opened the glove compartment. "I found this yesterday. I want you to have it." He took out an old, yellowing baseball and handed it to Martin.

"Thanks, Dad. It's the treasure I've always dreamed of—a beat-up ball," Martin said sarcastically.



"It's special, and I want you to have it. Maybe later we can practice with it."

"Thanks," Martin said. Confused, he hopped out of the truck, holding the ball in his palm. "We'll be done in a couple hours. I'll get Coach to give me a ride home." He slammed the door closed. Martin's father watched his son grab his bat and glove from the back of the truck and run off to the field.

As the sun started to set later in the evening, Martin opened the screen door, dropping his bat and glove on the uneven wood floor of the porch. With a thud from the equipment and a loud slam of the door, Martin's father looked up from his newspaper. "Good practice, Son?"

"Yeah. Coach thinks I could make Junior Varsity next year if I work on a couple things."

"You up to working now? Let's take that ball out," Martin's father suggested.

"What ball?" Nonchalantly, Martin knelt down to lace up his shoes.

"You know—that ball I gave you earlier," looking sternly over his reading glasses.

"Oh, that old ball? I used it in practice, but I think Alfred hit a foul ball with it. Probably landed in the grove. I didn't look for it. I'll get another one from the garage."

"You didn't look for it? The ball that I gave you, the gift I gave you earlier today? Martin, do you remember what I told you about being fourteen?" He stood up, his hands fixed tightly against his hips.

"Sure Dad," Martin replied defensively. "But I don't think losing an old baseball means I'm not responsible."

"Martin, the reason I told you that ball was special is that your uncle gave it to me the day he left for Vietnam. I was fourteen, and he said we'd play ball when he returned. I think you know the rest of the story." Martin stood, not knowing what to say. "He never came back. I was going through some things the other day, and I happened across it. I wanted to give it to you."

"Dad, why didn't you tell me?"

"Well, Son, I planned to, but you ran off before I could."

Martin shuffled his feet. Nervous and stammering, he said, "But, why did you give me the ball today?" He was worried. "Are you going somewhere?"

"No, Son, I'm not going anywhere. But you never know what tomorrow will bring, and I wanted to play ball while we could," his father responded. Disappointed by his lost message, he wrinkled the paper between his fingers and let himself fall heavy into his chair.

His father's words started to sink in, "Dad, let's go find that ball."

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Sentences and Fragments


Ideas for Themes

S or F

because she ate too much candy		
we ate cake at the birthday party		

Grandmother roasted a turkey		
some pumpkin pie		

everyone made Valentine sacks		
a candy box shaped like a heart		

when the grass turns green		
colorful tulips grow from bulbs		



Action Verb

First try

Better Sentence with descriptors

Topic Sentence



Power Number	Action Verb
Occasion Position	And, But, So and Or
Side by Side	Semi Colon
Rhetorical Question	To Plus: Infinitive

T-



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C-

Write your paragraph...

Interesting Beginnings

Match the type of starter with the example

Strong action verb

Stress the when

Stress the where

Introduce a character

Short dialogue

Make a comment

- Beneath our front porch...
- It was July when ...
- I dropped all the books and then looked up at the librarian.
- The farmer who loved far out on County Road 9...
- What do you think? Should I just give up?
- “What’s the problem?” his little brother asked.
- He has recently immigrated to the United States...
- The rock star has overcome great adversities in her life...
- She never seemed to fit in anywhere she went...
- One day I found a strange box beneath our front porch.